

SOUTHWEST LINES

SOUTHWEST IOWA
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICE HOURS 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM Find us at www.swiarec.coop

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th.

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- **In case of Down Power Lines REMEMBER:** no matter what vehicle you're in (tractor, car, pickup, combine)
 - Always remember to:
 - Stay in the vehicle
 - Call for help
 - If you **MUST** exit the vehicle (in case of fire) **JUMP CLEAR!**
 - Never touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. It could be a deadly mistake!
 - Do not touch any wires!

Corning Office

1801 Grove Avenue
Corning, IA 50841
(641) 322-3165
888-591-1261

Stanton Office

415 Broad Avenue
Stanton, IA 51573
(712) 829-2211
888-591-1260

Mt. Ayr Office

1502 W. South Street
Mount Ayr, IA 50854
(641) 464-2244
888-220-4869

Carroll Baker Retires from Board



At the annual meeting held on September 23rd, 2014, Carroll Baker retired from the Southwest Iowa REC Board of Directors after serving for 44 years (1970-2014). Carroll first began as a director for Rideta Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Mt. Ayr) and then for Southwest Iowa REC when the consolidation with Southwest Iowa Service Cooperative (Corning & Stanton) took place in 2004. Carroll's leadership and vision will be greatly missed but his many contributions to your electric cooperative will continue to help guide our future.

Meet your new Directors!

Ken Peppmeier – Region 1 – At-Large

Ken and wife Lori live near Shannon City. Their family includes daughters Brooke and Ayla and son Zack. They have two grandchildren. Ken has a farming operation and is also a substitute rural mail carrier. Ken belongs to the Arispe Methodist Church. Ken has served on the Afton Volunteer Fire Board, Grant Township Trustee, Arispe Methodist Church Trustee and Union County Fair Swine Committee. In his spare time, Ken enjoys hunting and keeping track of the kids' lives.



Dana Morgan – Region 2 – District 7

Dana and wife Dena live near Corning. They have one daughter, Addison. Dana is the Vice President of Sales at New Balance Commodities in Nodaway. He is also the owner of Morgan Land & Cattle Company. Dana is the Vice President of the Adams County Cattleman. He has served as Secretary on the Iowa County Ducks Unlimited Chapter and has been involved in the Young Cattleman's Leadership Program and with the Agriculture Future of America (AFA). In his spare time, Dana enjoys spending time with his family.



Happy Thanksgiving

Manager's Comments



Phil Kinser

Southwest Iowa REC Mission Statement:

Provide safe and reliable electric service, while also advancing community and economic development opportunities, in a manner consistent with sound cooperative business practices and values.



Cooperatives around the world operate according to a core set of principles. These principles, along with the cooperative purpose of improving quality of life for their members, make electric cooperatives different from other electric utilities

- 1) **Voluntary and Open Membership**
- 2) **Democratic Member Control**
- 3) **Members' Economic Participation**
- 4) **Autonomy and Independence**
- 5) **Education, Training, and Information**
- 6) **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
- 7) **Concern for Community**

THANK YOU to the members and guests that attended the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 23rd at the Lenox Community Center. A large and enthusiastic crowd of 360 members and guests gathered to enjoy a rib-eye steak sandwich meal, prize give-aways, entertainment and the business meeting of your Cooperative. **The main business item was the election of three (3) directors to a 3-year term each. Rich Fast and Marilyn Werner were re-elected to the Board of Directors and Ken Peppmeier was elected to the open At-Large position for Region 1.** Ken is no stranger to the REC having previously served as a director from 2002-2006. Ken's photo and a short bio appear elsewhere in this newsletter. Congratulations to those directors on re-election and also to the other candidates who sought election: Lee Brooke, Charles England, and Deb Creveling. A big thank you to the Nominating Committee of Doug Calkins, John A. Overholtzer, Doug England and Blaine Sunderman for selecting the slate of candidates and to the Election Committee of Doug and Elaine Calkins, Doug and Priscilla England, Blaine Sunderman, Mary Lou Roberts and Sharon Walkup for counting the ballots and certifying the election. My comments given at the meeting can be found on our website www.swiarec.coop. **During the board's reorganization meeting, the following directors were elected officers: Rich Fast, President; Marilyn Werner, Vice President; Dale Walkup, Secretary; and Jack Stephens, Treasurer.**

At the regular board meeting held on September 25th, Dana Morgan of rural Corning was appointed to serve the remainder of Stan Peterman's term which ends at the annual meeting in 2015. Dana's photo and a short bio appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

During National Cooperative Month in October, more than 29,000 not-for-profit cooperatives joined together to celebrate the advantages of co-op membership and to highlight the benefits and values they bring to their member-owners and communities. In Iowa, electric cooperatives provide electricity to 650,000 Iowans in each of the state's 99 counties. Iowa's rural electric cooperatives are part of a national network of 900 not-for-profit electric co-ops, which serve 42 million Americans in 47 states. It's a powerful network and we're proud that member-owners have a say in the way we do business.

Cooperatives look to the seven cooperative principles as our guide to ensure our member-owners' interests always take priority when we make decisions or develop policies. We apply the standards of the cooperative principles when setting rates, developing energy efficiency programs and services, securing economic development projects, and operating a financially viable business, just to name a few.

These principles serve as an excellent yardstick when evaluating how policy changes and new regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency or the integration of additional renewable resources from distributed generation will impact individual cooperatives and member-owners. Above all, we know that by keeping this principle-centered approach at the forefront of decision-making, we will meet the long-term interests of those we serve.

For example, as the State of Iowa studies distributed generation through the Iowa Utilities Board in an effort to develop future policies, they asked for input from all types of utilities – investor-owned, municipal and electric cooperatives. In providing input to the IUB, our feedback tied directly back to each cooperative principle. In this case, the principle of *Concern for Community* rose to the forefront as the foundation for what our approach should entail: *In developing distributed generation policies and incentives, particular attention should be given to the cost impacts on all utility consumers, including those not owning a system and those least able to afford such costs.*

We have a proven track record of supporting wind and solar distributed generation, and over time nearly 400 of those systems have interconnected with Iowa's electric cooperatives. When developed properly and according to established processes, distributed generation can potentially provide many benefits. That's why we work day in and day out to communicate the necessary steps to safely and successfully interconnect distributed generation. Cooperatives and member-owners share equally in working toward a sustainable future.

Because we balance the cooperative principles with our commitment to provide power that is safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and affordable, we have the greatest likelihood of ensuring a sustainable path forward.

2014 Annual Meeting Highlights



Magicomedy Lee Cole entertaining the crowd



Dale Walkup recognizing
Carroll Baker on his retirement



Ballot Committee



Taylor Co Cattlemen grilling



Grand Prize Winners!



REC staff serving meals



Roger Burger performing



Board of Directors



Registration



REC Office Staff



EPA Booth

Employee Updates

On November 1st, Ken Van Wyhe was promoted to Line Foreman at our Stanton facility to replace Greg Johnson who retired on October 31st. Ken has 27 years of experience with the REC as a First Class Lineman and is excited about his new responsibilities. Congratulations Ken!



On October 6th, Sam Elsberry was hired as an Apprentice Lineman at our Corning facility. Sam is from Leon, Iowa and is a 2013 graduate of the Powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa. Sam most recently worked for an electrical contractor. Please join us in welcoming Sam to the Cooperative family! Also on October 6th, Shayne Larson (Apprentice Lineman) transferred to our Stanton facility due to employment changes there.





Employee Spotlight

Name: Ken Van Wyhe

Family: Married to Gloria. Daughter, Stacia (Jason) Kell and granddaughter

Makenzie; and son, Korey (Krystal) Van Wyhe and granddaughter Macy.

Date of Hire: October 5, 1987

Current Position: Line Foreman – (Stanton)

Favorite Recipe: Strawberry Pretzel Dessert



The RECipe

Strawberry Pretzel Dessert

Crust:

3 T. sugar
 ¾ c. Melted butter
 2 c. Pretzel, crushed, not too fine
 Combine and press into 9x13 pan.

Mix powdered sugar and cream cheese then fold in with cool whip and marshmallows. Put white layer over crust.

Red Layer:

Box of frozen strawberries or raspberries
 1 pkg. Strawberry or raspberry Jello mix

White Layer:

1 (8 oz.) carton Cool Whip
 ½ c. Powdered sugar
 1 (8 oz.) cream cheese
 2 c. Miniature marshmallows

Drain frozen strawberries or raspberries reserving liquid. Add enough water to drained fruit juice to make 1½ cup liquid. Boil liquid and combine with 1 package strawberry or raspberry jello mix until thick; cool. Add berries. Pour over white layer. Refrigerate.



Beware of phone scams!!

Every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams — from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money. Some seem very friendly — calling you by your first name, making small talk, and asking about your family. They may claim to work for a company you trust, or they may send mail or place ads to convince you to call them. Keep these tips in mind when dealing with questionable phone calls.

Fraud prevention tips:

- The REC would never contact members by phone and ask for their account number. If someone calls you asking for sensitive information including your utility account number, SSN, credit card number or bank account details, please hang up and call the REC directly to verify the call. (Do not use any phone number supplied by the possible scammer; call the REC using one of the phone numbers we have provided to you.)
- Do not accept offers from anyone, including those claiming to be REC employees, to pay your bill or provide any other service for a fee. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- REC members who have delinquent accounts receive multiple notifications over the course of several weeks prior to electric service disconnection – never just a single notification immediately before disconnection.
- If a REC lineman or member service rep comes to your door, they should be wearing REC apparel and have a marked vehicle with proper identification. If something seems suspicious, keep your door shut and call the REC office to verify that someone has been sent to your address.
- If you receive a suspicious call or believe you may be a victim of fraud or attempted fraud, call the REC and local law enforcement right away to report the incident.

You can find some additional resources online through the Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer Information resource site: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams>



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater’s temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: Department of Energy